

To: Trakis, Lisa[Trakis.Lisa@epa.gov]; Arbaugh, Shawn[sarbaugh@pa.gov]
Cc: Charles Jones[Charles.Jones@readingpa.org]
From: Ralph Johnson
Sent: Thur 8/29/2013 8:16:34 PM
Subject: EPA & PADEP IMA Update


Lisa and Shawn,

The City of Reading really appreciates the cooperative relationship it has with EPA and DEP in moving forward with the City's obligations to improve its wastewater treatment plant under the Consent Decree. Recently, you asked for a brief update on the status of the City's negotiation of a new Intermunicipal Agreement in connection with the City's treatment of wastewater from the outlying municipalities.

In the fourth quarter of 2012, the City reached an agreement with Muhlenberg Township and Laureldale Borough. These two municipalities, along with the City make up approximately 79% of the capacity reserved at the wastewater treatment plant. The City kept pushing to resolve questions and concerns from the other municipalities, but it became apparent that the smaller volume contributors were waiting for Spring and Cumru Townships to sign before they would be willing to step forward.

The City made significant strides to reach an agreement with Spring and Cumru in the first and second quarters of 2013, but negotiations recently reach an apparent impasse. The City made substantial concessions in an attempt to accommodate Spring and Cumru Townships' concerns. When it appeared that we had resolved virtually all of the issues, Spring and Cumru raised a new issue by asking the City to provide an indemnification that the City views as totally unacceptable.

We communicated this to Spring and Cumru, but it appears that they may also be unwilling to concede on this brand new negotiating point. As a result, the dialog has somewhat stalled. We believe we can still overcome this impasse and have seen some movement on this issues by the solicitor of Cumru. The City plans to resume discussions in the next couple of weeks by having the City's Administration reach out directly to individual Supervisors to understand their rationale and attempt to resolve the impasse.



Please let me know if you have any questions, I am happy to discuss.

Thank you,

Ralph E. Johnson

Wastewater Manager